

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 122230Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3238

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

USCINCSO

UNCLAS BOGOTA 5184

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, CO

SUBJECT: MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES
(FARC) IMPEDED BY HEAVY RAINS

REF BOGOTA 5106

1. PRESS REPORTS JUNE 12 THAT COMBINED MILITARY, AIR FORCE AND POLICE
UNITS HAD PURSUED FARC GROUP INTO THE CANYON OF LA PERDIZ, BUT THAT
HEAVY RAINS HAD IMPEDED ACTIVITIES. ONE SOLDIER AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL
FARC MEMBERS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED.

2. RESIDENTS OF ALGECIRAS, TOWN OCCUPIED BY FARC ON JUNE 10,
REPORTEDLY HAVE SAID THAT AT LEAST THREE YOUNG WOMEN PLAYED KEY ROLE
IN THE GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES, AND THAT A DOCTOR MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN
AMONG THE GUERRILLAS. NUMBER OF PRISONERS FREED BY FARC FROM
ALGECIRAS JAIL NOW PUT AT 28, BUT SEVERAL REPORTEDLY SURRENDERED
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

3. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE HERNANDO CURREA CUBIDES,
INTERVIEWED BY PRESS JUNE 11, DISCOUNTED FARC ACTION AS LITTLE MORE
THAN A PUBLICITY STUNT WHICH "DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE FARC
HAS BECOME MORE POWERFUL OR THAT IT CONSTITUTES A DANGER TO THE
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DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY". ASKED ABOUT REPORT

FROM ALGECIRAS THAT MANUEL MARULANDA VELEZ (ALIAS TIRO-FIJO)
MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE RENEWED FARC ACTIVITY, CURREA REPLIED
THAT THE LAST TIME ANYTHING WAS HEARD OF TIRO-FIJO WAS 10
YEARS AGO WHEN HE OCCUPIED THE VILLAGE OF INZA.

4. DIRECTOR OF POLICE, GENERAL HENRY GARCIA BOHORQUEZ TOLD PRESS
THAT "THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE ARMY, POLICE AND AIRFORCE ARE
FIGHTING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN THE MOUNTAINS TO DESTROY THE
ASSASSINS OF THE COUNTRY".

5. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE REPORT FROM MILITARY THAT NO CONTACT WITH
GUERRILLAS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE EARLY AFTERNOON JUNE 10 AND THAT THERE
HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION BY GOC AUTHORITIES OF ANY FARC
DEATHS AS OF LATE EVENING JUNE 11.
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